after 31-10-1961 have not yet got selection grade.

(c) Lady Assistant Teachers (General) appointed up to October, 1961 and Lady Assistant Teachers (Scheduled Caste) appointed up to July, 1980 have been granted selection grade.

(d) Next list expected to cover Lady Teachers (General) appointed up to January, 1962 for grant of selection grade is likely to be issued before the end of December, 1986.

**Investigation into smuggling of goods**

206. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 10, 1986;

(b) if so, whether investigations into the matter has led to unearthing of a big smuggling racket involving smuggling of goods worth crores of rupees into the country; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under investigation by the Police and Customs Departments and appropriate steps will be taken on receipt of their report.

**Filling up of reserved seats by SC/ST Candidates in IITs**

207. SHRI PRIAHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seats reserved for candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Institutes of Technology are filled up only by candidates belonging to these communities and that these are not interchangeable;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this policy, many of these seats remain vacant;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the policy to fill up the maximum number of reserved seats by the successful candidates of SC and ST communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The seats reserved for the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are filled up by the students belonging to the respective community only. The unfilled seats, reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, are not filled up by students belonging to any other community.

(d) A number of steps have been taken during recent years to increase the intake of students belonging to SC and ST communities in the Indian Institutes of Technology. These steps have shown positive results.

**Increase in ceiling of Income for SC/ST Candidates in IIT, Delhi**

208. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to erosion in income, the ceiling of Rs. 880 as basic pay, fixed for providing amenities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates pursuing preparatory courses in I.I.T. Delhi, has become outdated;

(b) whether Government propose to raise the ceiling; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students pursuing preparatory course in I.I.T., Delhi are eligible for all amenities available to the regular SC/ST students of the Institute, provided their parental income (gross) does not excced Rs. 31.554 per annum. There is no proposal before the Government at this stage to raise the ceiling.

**Bomb Scare in Aircrafts**

209. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any code for handling the aircraft in case of an emergency after bomb scare; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Immediately, the passengers and baggage are unloaded and an inter-departmental team searches the aircraft thoroughly. The re-embarkation is permitted only after the checks are over and if nothing incriminating is discovered.

**Forced 'Sati' in Umaria Village near Jabalpur**

210. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a newly married woman was forced to perform 'Sati' at Umaria village near Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken with regard to the eradication of the prevalence of such abhorrent outlawed rituals in certain parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All cases of attempt or abetment of "Sati" are liable for criminal prosecution. A media campaign is being undertaken by the State Governments and the Central Government to create awarness in the minds of the people against such practices.

**National highways in Punjab**

211. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the condition of the National Highways in Punjab is very deplorable;

(b) if so, the amount of money allocated to improve the condition of National Highways in Punjab during the current plan period;

(c) what is the progress regarding the improvement of the National Highways in Punjab; and

(d) by when the work on National Highways is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) According to the information available with the Government, National Highways in Punjab are in a fairly good and trafficworthy condition. However, to improve the condition of the roads and bridges further, a works programme of Rs. 135.4 crores has been drawn out for the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the improvement works are taken up in a phased manner. At present works of improvement of National Highways in an aggregate length of about 300 Kms are in various stages of progress.